HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INCLUDING THE NAVY, ARMY, AND AIR FORCE TO INCREASE ON-BASE HOUSING AVAILABILITY FOR ACTIVE-DUTY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS TO ALLEVIATE HAWAII'S HOUSING CRISIS.

WHEREAS, an affordable housing shortage and an increasing homeless population are among the most pressing challenges to the State of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique strategic position in the Pacific Ocean has led to one of the largest concentrations of United States military forces in the country, as there are approximately seventy thousand military personnel assigned to eleven military installations throughout Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the large number of assigned military personnel to Hawaii results in competition among local civilian residents for limited housing in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's high cost of living and housing scarcity has resulted in a disproportionately high number of multigenerational households; and

WHEREAS, homeless encampments in the State are increasing, despite significant action by state and county government in the form of emergency homeless shelters, temporary housing, and affordable housing initiatives; and

WHEREAS, a major contributing factor to high rent and homelessness is the limited supply and greatly increased demand for housing by active-duty military personnel and dependents; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the United States Secretary of Defense, and the Service Secretaries of the Navy, Army, and Air Force, are requested to increase on-base housing availability for active-duty personnel and their dependents to alleviate Hawaii's housing crisis which results, in part, from competition with local civilian residents for rental properties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commanders of Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Hickam Air Force Base, Schofield Barracks, and other military bases are requested to encourage active-duty personnel who are living in the community to consider on-base housing as a first priority, as is feasible or practical; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Defense; Under Secretary of Defense for Policy; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy; Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment; all Service Secretaries of the United States Armed Forces; and the Commander of United States Indo-Pacific Command.

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